

I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. The combination of these two satellite providers will provide numerous benefits to consumers like me, including more choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies.

Here in Arkansas, where I live, we have many rural areas where cable is not an option. I have satellite tv because it is all I can receive. I must take network channels from New York or Calif because locals are not available to such a rural state, and probably never will be without the merger. It will allow for local coverage in all the states. We, who only get satellite tv, have had to settle for what we can get, which means broadcasting from the bigger and more populated areas. Even though I very much live in the country, I would really like more choices in the programing, and where it comes from, available to me.

Regarding the internet, being able to have good and fast access would be wonderful, especially considering the fact that we had party line phones just a few years ago. So you can probably understand what our internet access consists of now.

Therefore, I would very much like your support for the merger now being presented. We are not in a big city, so we have few voices for you to hear. But I do hope you will listen to mine.